



TELEGRAM

937

**DECLASSIFIED
PA/HO, Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
June 9, 2005**

EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS
EXDIS



Department of State

TELEGRAM

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 DACCA 00010 030842Z

INVITED ME.

B. FONMIN RECEIVED ME WITH GREAT CORDIALITY IN HIS OFFICE IN BANGABHABAN (FORMER GOVERNMENT HOUSE). AFTER EXCHANGE OF NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS, FONMIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR "WIDESPREAD SUPPORT OF AMERICAN PEOPLE" FOR BENGALI SUFFERING UNDER MLA AND FOR CREATION OF BANGLADESH; HE CITED NAMES OF SEVERAL SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WHO HAD ALSO SUPPORTED BANGLADESH BUT SAID HE AND HIS AWAMI LEAGUE COLLEAGUES HAD BEEN "SHOCKED" BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE "HOSTILE ATTITUDE" OF PRESENT ADMINISTRATION TO ASPIRATION OF BENGALI PEOPLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. WITHOUT DWELLING EXCESSIVELY ON THESE POINTS, SAMAD MOVED ON TO QUESTION OF STATUS OF U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL. HE SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE NEED FOR SOME TIME ON THE PART OF FOREIGN POWERS TO DECIDE ON RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH, AND HE ASSURED ME THAT DURING PERIOD WHILE SUCH DECISIONS BEING MADE, FOREIGN MISSIONS IN DACCA WOULD BE TREATED "WITH DIGNITY AND HONOR" AND WOULD BE PROVIDED WHATEVER PROTECTION WAS NEEDED, ALTHOUGH IN LATTER QUESTION, HE REMARKED WITH A SMILE THAT HE WAS SURE I HAD OBSERVED HOW PEACEFUL AND RELAXED DACCA HAD BECOME IN PAST WEEK OR TEN DAYS. TO MY QUESTION WHETHER MISSIONS WOULD BE AFFORDED FACILITIES FOR NECESSARY MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL, EXCHANGE OFFICIAL MAIL, AND IMPORTATION OF SUPPLIES, SAMAD SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND WAS SEEKING TO SET UP NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH THEM. HE THEN RAISED QUESTION OF RELATIONSHIP OF USG OFFICE IN DACCA TO EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD. HE SAID THAT BDG HOPED THAT DACCA OFFICE WOULD NOT CONTINUE TO BE REGARDED AS CONSULATE GENERAL ACCREDITED TO PAKISTAN.

THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW SAMAD REFERRED TO THIS OFFICE "U.S. MISSION IN DACCA", AND PRESS REFERENCES HAVE MAINTAINED THIS STYLE (SEE BELOW). I EXPLAINED THAT HIS QUESTION WAS, OF COURSE, TIED IN WITH MATTER OF RECOGNITION, AND THAT THERE WERE IN ADDITION, CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER FACTORS INVOLVED. I MADE POINT, HOWEVER, THAT DACCA OFFICE HAD AT ALL TIMES BEEN ABLE REPORT FREELY TO WASHINGTON AND THAT HE COULD BE ASSURED THAT THIS WOULD CONTINUE. FONMIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, BUT REPEATED HIS HOPE THAT, AT FORMAL AND OFFICIAL LEVEL, USG WOULD NOT SHOW DACCA OFFICE AS CONSULATE GENERAL ACCREDITED TO ISLAMABAD.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4

NN 969042
By HRM/VSW Date 2/10/98

DECLASSIFIED
PA/HO, Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
June 9, 2005



Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 DACCA 00010 030842Z

I SAID THAT I WOULD CONVEY HIS FEELINGS TO WASHINGTON, BUT I POINTED OUT THAT OUR VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC AND FOREIGN SERVICE LISTS WERE ISSUED ONLY ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR, SO THAT WHATEVER DECISIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN, THERE COULD BE CONSIDERABLE TIME LAG BEFORE NEW LISTINGS APPEARED. FONMIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT, BUT HAD SIMPLY WISHED TO GET THE POINT ACROSS.

5. SAMAD THEN TURNED TO WHAT I SUSPECT WAS MAJOR PURPOSE OF HIS INVITATION TO ME. HE SAID THAT BDG, IN ADDITION TO DIFFICULTIES WHICH IT WAS EXPERIENCING, LIKE EVERY NEW GOVERNMENT, IN GETTING ITSELF ORGANIZED, SUFFERED FROM GRIEVOUS ADDITIONAL HANDICAP OF HAVING ITS CHIEF OF STATE AND ACKNOWLEDGED LEADER HELD CAPTIVE BY "FOREIGN GOVERNMENT". HE SAID THAT SHEIKH MUJIB RAHMAN'S PRESENCE IN DACCA WAS DESPERATELY NEEDED TO HELP RESOLVE PROBLEMS AND INCIPIENT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WHICH WERE BEGINNING TO SHOW THEMSELVES INSIDE COUNTRY. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO NEED TO DISARM IRREGULARS AND INSTITUTE DISCIPLINE IN VARIOUS "RAHINIS" ALL OF THEM ARMED AND SOME OF THEM SUBJECT TO DIVERSE POLITICAL INFLUENCES. ABOVE ALL, HE SAID, SHEIKH'S PRESENCE WAS NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT COALESCENCE OF NATIONAL SPIRIT AND HARNESS ENERGIES OF BENGALI PEOPLE TO HARD TASKS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND SELF GOVERNMENT. SAMAD SAID THAT HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF USG WOULD EXERT ITS INFLUENCE ON PAKISTAN AND ON PRESIDENT BHUTTO IN PARTICULAR TO FREE MUJIB IMMEDIATELY. HE SAID FURTHER, THAT IT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD ELIMINATING "SUSPICIONS AND HOSTILITY" TOWARD USG IF LATTER'S APPEAL TO BHUTTO COULD BE PUBLIC ONE.

6. SAMAD SAID THAT BDG RECOGNIZED NEED FOR SOME KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH "PAKISTAN - THAT IS TO SAY, FORMER WEST PAKISTAN": THERE WERE MANY MATTERS, FINANCIAL, POLITICAL, AND OTHERS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED BY NEGOTIATIONS. BEYOND THAT, HE WENT ON, BDG COULD NOT ESCAPE GEOGRAPHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ITS SITUATION AS PART OF SUB-CONTINENT; IT NEEDED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS, INCLUDING PAKISTAN. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED, CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT OF SHEIKH MUJIB BY PAKISTAN WOULD MAKE IT UNNECESSARILY DIFFICULT FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN ON PRESSING AND IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS AND WOULD SOUR PROSPECTS FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS IN FUTURE. END PART ONE OF MESSAGE.

GP-3. SPIVACK.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4

NN 969042
By HRM/VSW Date 2/10/98

DECLASSIFIED
PA/HO, Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
June 9, 2005